

REMARKS

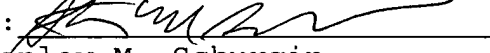
This Preliminary Amendment puts the claims into proper form for examination. Note that claims 3, 4, 6, 7, and 9 have been amended; new claims 10-16 have been added; and claims 1, 2, 5, and 8 remain unchanged. Kindly calculate the filing fee based on the amended claims.

This Application contains a translation of the title and abstract as they were when originally filed by the Applicant. No account has been taken of any changes that may have been made subsequently by the PCT Authorities acting ex officio, e.g., under PCT Rules 37.2, 38.2, and/or 48.3.

The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter which would expedite allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 8/3/01

CLG:kmw/255344-1
Enclosure

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Red-lined Claims for the Examiner's convenience:

3/ A method according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, characterized in that the transit time of the fabric through the chamber lies in the range 20 min to 2 h.

4/ A method according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, characterized in that, prior to carbonization, the fabric is subjected to relaxation treatment at a temperature lying in the range 100°C to 250°C.

6/ A method according to claim 4 ~~or claim 5~~, characterized in that the relaxation treatment is performed for a duration lying in the range 15 min to 3 h.

7/ A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~, characterized in that the carbonized fabric is subjected to high temperature heat treatment lying in the range 1000°C to 2800°C after it has passed through the carbonization chamber.

9/ A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~, characterized in that the carbonized fabric is subjected to activation treatment.